

Northern Ireland Aerospace Sector

Size of the Sector

- Approximately 40 companies
- 7,200 employees
- Average salaries £23k+ per annum
- Engineering at the core in terms of capability
- Sales of £800 million per annum
- R&D spend £27 million per annum

Key Players

- Bombardier Aerospace, Belfast (5,000 employees)
- Thales Air Defence, Belfast (600 employees)
- B/E Aerospace, Kilkeel (560 employees)
- Langford Lodge (RLC Group), Crumlin (290 employees)
- John Huddleston Engineering, Greyabbey (90 employees)
- Maydown Precision Engineering, Londonderry (110 employees)
- Moyola Precision Engineering, Castledawson (75 employees)

Major Companies

Bombardier Aerospace

- World's third largest aircraft manufacturer
- Over 5,000 employees in Northern Ireland
- Global leader in regional and business aircraft markets
- Northern Ireland facility most diversified in aerospace division
- 12 of the 15 Bombardier aircraft programmes are supplied from Belfast
- Product lines include aircraft structures, nacelles and composites
- Selected for CSeries wing design, development and manufacture which involves investment commitment of £520 million, over 800 jobs and new skills
- Represents largest ever inward investment to Northern Ireland

Thales Air Defence

- Circa 600 employees
- 50% highly qualified design engineers
- Missile design development and manufacture
- Successful and versatile Starstreak Missile Programme with many configurations to suit differing operational needs

B/E Aerospace

- One of the largest seating manufacturing facilities in the world

- 560 employees
- Global leader in first, business, premium economy and economy class seating

Langford Lodge (RLC Group)

- 290 employees
- Key components for Martin Baker ejector seats
- Martin Baker test track facilities

John Huddleston Engineering

- Locally owned success story with facilities in GB and Poland
- Very proactive targeting global business
- High specification / high speed precision engineering capability

Capabilities of local Universities

Queen's University Belfast Integrated Aircraft Technologies

- Integration of the design and manufacture of fuselage structures, nacelle structures and systems
- Control components
- Metal bonding
- Computer aided design and manufacture

University of Ulster Engineering Composites Research Centre

- 3D design of composite reinforced textiles
- Thermal and mechanical assessment of resin and composite materials
- Manufacture of components by Autoclave and Resin Transfer Moulding (RTM)
- Modelling of mechanical properties

Highlights in 2009/10

- Bombardier CSeries project has commenced and is progressing on schedule
- 400 people already employed on the programme in Northern Ireland
- 56,000 square metres wing manufacturing facility under construction which is scheduled for completion in Autumn 2010
- Bombardier investing £520 million in the programme in Northern Ireland
- Largest ever inward investment to this region
- Significant investments being undertaken in the sector including Huddleston, Moyola and Maydown – all aimed at moving up the value chain and extending global reach

Potential areas for FDI focus

- There could be an opportunity to develop a true global competitive position in respect of high speed machining capability
- Emphasis on composites development and manufacturing to meet future weight, operational cost and environmental challenges
- New composites R&D and manufacturing centre being developed by QUB and UU in collaboration with industry and government
- Focus of the centre will be industry-led composites research and development
- Sectoral opportunities in aerospace, automotive and other industrial applications